

Philad. May 20/61

My dear Mr May

I have but one letter of John Brown's & that has one or two characteristic sentences in it. Mr B. sent it to me merely for remembrance. It would be worth quoting in a biography & I would have sent it to you (in a copy) had there been time.

To me the hour is full of hope on account of its powerful & rapid educating influence.

The Southern character is being laid bare & stripped of every thing looking like honor, honesty & humanity. All that weak consideration for Southern sensibilities which neutralized the effect of the plainest Antislavery statements.

Fact, is all gone. Is not this, an immense
gain - To my mind it is a gain so great
that I care not what corrupt political
arrangements may be made, the moral
power to ^{carry} ~~call~~ them out will not be fur-
nished. The political ruin of the South is con-
summated. What was regarded as a chival-
rous aristocracy & as such dazzled & corrupted
the Northern imagination, is now found to be
a compound of falsehood, treachery & brutal
ruffianism. Is it not seen now as it has
never been seen before that the real in-
cendriaries who have kindled this great
conflagration are not those who have
been crying fire so long - that treason,
treason marked by special baseness, is the
natural fruit of Slavery. The one great

work which the Abolitionists have been
doing with steadily increasing effect from
the first is compelling Slavery to show it-
self in its unutterable hideousness. I
doubt whether they themselves knew how bad
it is. They have ^{been} appalled at every new
demonstration of its power of corruption.
How simple & beautiful is the operation of
the Divine Law as we now look back upon
the history of the last 30 yrs! Every outbreak
of the Slave Power, every victory that
it seemed at intervals to gain, was simply
the Evil showing itself, as it had to be
shown, in order that the due degree of ab-
horrence of it, with which the nation must
be inspired, should be awakened. How plain is it
now that no direct progress towards its abolition
was to be looked for, until the foul thing was seen.
It must be stripped of all its decorations to the

last rays of its fire, before it could be
turned neck & heels out of door -

The Govt. is not warring against Slavery. It
is simply recovering its stolen property. This is
all that it avows, all that it stands where it
is, it can avow. But in doing this, it must needs
employ agencies that will work against Slavery
at the same time. I think we should be thankful
that we hear no clamorous protestations of
a determination to protect State rights, i.e. to
guarantee Slavery. Don't you believe that the
determination to have matters settled now, ^{where}
is every ^{where} ~~express~~ ^{is} honest? And if honest, must it
not mean the abolition of Slavery? Having of
necessity that meaning, altho' not distinctly defined to
itself yet, may not the North say to the Slaves: "Wait
a little while. As you were. We are going to take
care of you all." -

With all good wishes

Cordially Yrs

W H Furness